

July 14, 2010

ITEM NO. B1

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GROWING POWER, INC.
TO EXPAND THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM AT ALTGELD GARDENS**

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority ("CHA") authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into a contract with Grower Power, Inc. ("Growing Power") for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$165,000 to create and implement a community garden at Altgeld Gardens.

FUNDING

General Fund

Vendor: Growing Power, Inc.
Address: 2215 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647

Contract Type: Professional Services
Base Contract Term: July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011
Original Contract Amount: \$165,000 NTE

M/W/DBE Participation: PENDING COMPLIANCE APPRVOAL

Direct ___ % MBE ___ % WBE ___ % DBE
Indirect ___ % MBE ___ % WBE ___ % DBE
Waiver ___ Yes/No PENDING

Section 3:

_____(#) Hiring _____ (\$) Subcontracting X (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

EXPLANATION

On May 18, 2010, CHA received official written notice of an award from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ("DCEO") to create and implement a summer Community Garden Program at Altgeld Gardens to provide CHA youth employment opportunities. The grant funding from DCEO will provide 40 CHA youth with training in agribusiness while supporting the establishment of a community produce garden. Through this grant, Growing Power will be responsible for implementing this community garden in collaboration with Uhlich Children's Advantage Network ("UCAN"), TEC Services, Inc., and University of Illinois Extension.

Upon the Board's approval, CHA will enter into a contract with Growing Power to expand the community garden project created by the DCEO grant by creating an additional 150 adult employment opportunities. Growing Power will provide oversight, training, supplies, tools, and equipment for an additional 150 adult workers. Within these positions, TANF eligible adults (ages 18+) will assist in the planning and creation of the community garden. CHA will leverage the Put Illinois to Work program ("PITW") grant, which was authorized by the Board on April 20, 2010, to fund the wages for the 150 adult workers. PITW funds will pay the subsidized wages in an amount of up to \$720,000. Adult participants will earn the standard \$10 per hour wage associated with the Put Illinois to Work program.

Participants will construct and install 150 raised box planters, and work in teams to install a community garden, hoop greenhouses and compost system that will form the infrastructure for long term sustainable jobs and produce for the community. Participants will also develop and execute a food distribution system that includes farm stand sales, food pantry and home delivery services, providing an entrepreneurial learning experience while promoting sustainability. Participants will attend educational programs to increase understanding of local and regional food systems and career opportunities in agriculture and natural resources (green jobs) and cooking demonstrations to increase understanding of food preparation using the local produce. Participants will also receive job readiness training including career exploration, job search and application, resume writing, and interviewing and workplace skills.

Based upon the foregoing, it is in the best interest of the Chicago Housing Authority to enter into a contract with Growing Power, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$165,000 to expand the community garden program at Altgeld Gardens.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-CHA-90

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Board Letter dated July 14, 2010, entitled "AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GROWING POWER, INC. TO EXPAND THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM AT ALTGELD GARDENS";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

THAT, the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into a contract with Growing Power, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$165,000 to expand the community garden program at Altgeld Gardens.

